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Fifty-third session
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Agenda item 94 (a)
Environment and sustainable development: Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, including the outcome of the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. David Prendergast (Jamaica), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.25

Implementation of and follow-up to the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, which was held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992, and the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly for the purpose of an overall review and appraisal of the implementation of Agenda 21, which was held in New York from 23 to 27 June 1997,

Reaffirming that Agenda 21[1] is the fundamental programme of action for achieving sustainable development, and that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21,[2] adopted at the nineteenth special session of the General Assembly, will enhance the full implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development,

Recognizing that the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 includes a statement of commitment to agenda 21 and the goals of sustainable development, an assessment of progress made since the United Nations Conference on Environment and

[1] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992*, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and Corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

[2] Resolution S-19/2, annex.

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Development in all main areas of Agenda 21 and other outcomes of the Conference, and recommendations on the future methods of work of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the programme of work of the Commission for the period 1998–2002,

Recognizing also that mutually supportive efforts at the national and international levels are needed in the pursuit of sustainable development, and that the gap between developed and developing countries points to the continued need for a dynamic and enabling international economic environment supportive of international cooperation, particularly in the fields of finance, technology transfer, debt and trade, if the momentum for global progress towards sustainable development is to be maintained and increased,

Noting with concern that the assessment and review of progress made by the General Assembly at its nineteenth special session concluded that although some progress had been made, especially at the local level, the overall trends with respect to global environment had not improved, and emphasizing that the implementation of Agenda 21 in a comprehensive manner remains vitally important and is now more urgent than ever,

Noting also the convening of the first Assembly of the Global Environment Facility in New Delhi from 1 to 3 April 1998 and the conclusion of the second replenishment of the Facility,

Noting further that the next review of the implementation of Agenda 21 is scheduled to be carried out in 2002 by the General Assembly,

1. *Stresses* the need to accelerate the full implementation of Agenda 21[1] and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21;[2]

2. *Recognizes* that the Commission on Sustainable Development, within its mandate as specified in General Assembly resolution 47/191 of 27 December 1992 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, will continue to provide the central forum for reviewing progress and for urging further implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and other commitments made at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development or, as a result of it, for conducting a high-level policy debate aimed at consensus-building on sustainable development, for catalyzing action and long-term commitment on sustainable development at all levels, and for urging further implementation of Agenda 21;

3. *Calls on* the Commission on Sustainable Development to continue to undertake these tasks in complementing and providing interlinkages to the work of other United Nations organs, organizations and bodies acting in the field of sustainable development, to play its role in assessing the challenges of globalization as they relate to sustainable development, and to perform its functions in coordination with other subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council and with related organizations and institutions, including making recommendations, within its mandate, to the Economic and Social Council, bearing in mind the interrelated outcomes of recent United Nations conferences;

4. *Emphasizes* that to achieve more substantive results by the next review of the implementation of Agenda 21 in 2002 will require concerted efforts at all levels, including by Governments, and calls upon all countries to fulfil their commitments of Agenda 21, and in this context calls upon developed countries to fulfil their commitments undertaken with respect to financial resources and the transfer of environmentally sound technology;

5. *Underscores* the importance of continued active and collaborative involvement of all relevant parts of the United Nations system in the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and requests the Secretary-General, in close collaboration with all relevant parts of the United Nations system and

taking into account the outcome of the deliberations in the Commission on Sustainable Development, to submit to future sessions of the General Assembly for its consideration, through the Economic and Social Council in view of its coordination function, an analytical report on the measures taken within the United Nations system to accelerate implementation of Agenda 21 and of the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, including identification of constraints and recommendations on how to address those constraints;

6. *Stresses* the importance of high-quality preparations for the forthcoming 10-year review of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21, and requests the Secretary-General to submit to it for consideration at its fifty-fifth session a report on possible ways and means aimed at ensuring effective preparations for this review;

7. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session, under the item entitled "Environment and sustainable development", a sub-item entitled "Implementation of Agenda 21 and the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21".

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Fifty-third session
Second Committee
Agenda item 94 (d)
Environment and sustainable development: Convention on Biological Diversity

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairman of the Committee, Mr. David Prendergast (Jamaica), on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution A/C.2/53/L.29

Convention on Biological Diversity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 52/201 of 18 December 1997 on the Convention on Biological Diversity and other relevant resolutions relating to the Convention,

Recalling also the provisions of the Convention on Biological Diversity,[1]

Recalling further Agenda 21,[2] particularly its chapter 15 on the conservation of biological diversity and related chapters,

Having considered the report of the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity,[3]

Deeply concerned about the continued loss of the world's biological diversity and, on the basis of the provisions of the Convention, reaffirming the commitment to the conservation of biological diversity, the sustainable use of its components, and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the utilization of genetic resources, including by appropriate access to genetic resources and by appropriate transfer of relevant technologies, taking into account all rights over those resources and to technologies, and by appropriate funding,

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[1] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992.

[2] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigenda), vol. I: *Resolutions adopted by the Conference*, resolution 1, annex II.

[3] A/53/451, annex.

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Recognizing the contribution of indigenous and local communities to the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources,

Emphasizing that the Convention is an important instrument for achieving sustainable development, taking into account its three objectives, and for promoting the ecosystem approach embodied in the Convention and the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Recalling the decisions adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, relating to intellectual property rights and the relationship of the Convention with other international agreements,

Noting the dialogue taking place in the Committee on Trade and Environment of the World Trade Organization on the provisions of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights,

Encouraged by the work carried out to date under the Convention, and satisfied that most States and one regional economic integration organization have ratified the Convention,

Taking note with appreciation of the generous offer of the Government of Colombia to host the sixth meeting of the Open-ended Ad hoc Working Group on Biosafety and the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties that will take place at Cartagena de Indias, from 15 to 19 February and on 22 and 23 February 1999, respectively,

Recalling its invitation to the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly on the result of future meetings of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention,

Noting the importance of decision IV/6, in particular paragraph 11 thereof, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting,

1. *Welcomes* the results of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, held at Bratislava from 4 to 16 May 1998;[4]

2. *Welcomes* the decision of the fourth meeting of the Conference of the Parties concerning the adoption of the programme of work and the thematic approach to guide its work in the development of the Convention for the foreseeable future, including its in-depth consideration of ecosystems;[5]

3. *Calls upon* Governments, in cooperation with the Conference of the Parties, to use science-based analyses, to study and monitor closely the evolution of new technologies to prevent possible adverse effects on the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity, which might have an impact on farmers and local communities;

4. *Recognizes* the importance of the adoption of a protocol on bio-safety at the extraordinary meeting of the Conference of the Parties in 1999, or as soon as possible thereafter;

5. *Welcomes* decision IV/15 adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, in which the Conference of the Parties stresses the need to ensure consistency in implementing the Convention and World Trade Organization agreements, including the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights, with a view to promoting increased mutual supportiveness and integration of biological diversity concerns and the protection of intellectual property rights;

[4] See A/53/451, annex.

[5] Decision IV/16.

6. *Reaffirms* paragraph 10 of decision IV/15, in which the Conference of the Parties emphasizes that further work is required to help develop a common appreciation of the relationship between intellectual property rights and the relevant provisions of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and the Convention on Biological Diversity, in particular on issues relating to technology transfer and conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising out of the use of genetic resources, including the protection of knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity;

7. *Recognizes* the importance of the implementation of the Convention at all levels, including through the preparation and implementation of national strategies, plans and programmes, taking into account the need for financial resources to support the implementation activities, in particular those of developing countries, in accordance with the provisions of the Convention and decisions of the Conference of the Parties;

8. *Encourages* those States that have not yet ratified the Convention to do so as soon as possible;

9. *Welcomes* decision IV/8, adopted by the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting, in which the Conference of the Parties decided to establish a panel of experts to implement the terms outlined in the decision;

10. *Recognizes* the importance of national action to conserve biological diversity in many habitats, including forests, wetlands and coastal areas, in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Convention, in particular article 8, and the need to mobilize national and international support for such national actions;

11. *Welcomes* the decision of the Conference of the Parties at its fourth meeting to include an item entitled "Alien species that threaten ecosystems, habitat or species" in the agenda of its sixth meeting;

12. *Recognizes* the utility of information exchange, and encourages the development of biodiversity information networks at the national, regional and international levels;

13. *Invites* all funding institutions and bilateral and multilateral donors, as well as regional funding institutions and non-governmental organizations, to cooperate with the secretariat of the Convention in the implementation of the programme of work;

14. *Calls upon* States parties to the Convention to urgently settle any arrears and pay their contribution in full and in a timely manner so as to ensure continuity in the cash flows required to finance the ongoing work of the Conference of the Parties, the subsidiary bodies and the Convention secretariat;[6]

15. *Invites* the Executive Secretary of the Convention on Biological Diversity to report to the General Assembly on the ongoing work of the Convention;

16. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-fourth session the sub-item entitled "Convention on Biological Diversity".

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[6] See United Nations Environment Programme, *Convention on Biological Diversity* (Environmental Law and Institution Programme Activity Centre), June 1992, articles 23.4 (g) and 25.